

Message Text

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TAGS: ECOSOC, EGEN
SUBJECT: ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION OF ECOSOC:
RESTRUCTURING AND OVERVIEW

1. CONFIRMING POOLE/CONHN TELECONS JAN 10 AND 11, THE QUESTION OF A SPECIAL ECOSOC MEETING OR MEETINGS ON RESTRUCTURING AS WELL AS THE QUESTION OF SCHEDULING THE FIRST MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON OVERVIEW WERE DISCUSSED TENTATIVELY BOTH IN THE INFORMAL CLOSED MEETING OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION ON JAN 10 AND IN THE CORRIDORS. DEPT WILL NOTE IN THE DRAFT PROGRAM OF WORK FOR THE ECOSOC (DOC E/1978/1) THE SECRETARIAT NOTES IN PARA 8 OF THE INTRODUCTION (PAGE 5) THAT CONFERENCE FACILITIES AT HEADQUARTERS HAVE BEEN RESERVED FROM JAN 16 TO FEB 3 IN CASE THE ECOSOC WISHED TO HOLD A SPECIAL MEETING ON IMPLEMENTING RESTRUCTURING AS WELL AS FOR POSSIBLE USE BY THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON OVERVIEW FOR ITS FIRST MEETING.

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2. DURING THE CLOSED SESSION EC-9 SPOKESMEN (UK, FRG, AND NETHERLANDS) PROPOSED THAT THE SECOND TWO WEEKS OF THIS PERIOD (JAN 23 TO FEB 3) BE USED FOR INITIAL DISCUSSIONS OF ECOSOC'S IMPLEMENTATION OF RESTRUCTURING SO AS TO LAY THE GROUNDWORK FOR MORE FORMAL ACTION IN THE SPRING AND SUMMER SESSIONS OF ECOSOC, WHERE THIS QUESTION IS ON THE

PROPOSED AGENDA. THE G-77 REPRESENTATIVES (JAMICA, UGANDA AND TUNISIA), CLEARLY REFLECTING UNPREPAREDNESS TO MOVE SO SOON, RECOMMENDED THAT THE WHOLE MATTER BE PUT OFF UNTIL THE SPRING SESSION. THE US REP (AMB WELLS) SUGGESTED THAT PERHAPS ONE WEEK IN JAN/FEB MIGHT BE SUFFICIENT FOR A VERY PRELIMINARY EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITHOUT CONCRETE DECISIONS. IN VIEW OF VERY HEAVY SCHEDULING CONFLICTING WITH POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE DATES CLOSER TO THE SPRING SESSION, THE QUESTION WAS DEFERRED FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION TODAY (JAN 11), WHEN FURTHER PARTICULARS CAN BE EXPLAINED BY THE SECRETARIAT.

3. WE THINK THAT EVEN THOUGH WE OURSELVES DO NOT YET HAVE CLEAR POSITIONS ON HOW ECOSOC SHOULD IMPLEMENT THE RESTRUCTURING RECOMMENDATIONS, WE AND THE EC-9 HAVE AT LEAST MADE IT CLEAR THAT WE DO NOT WISH TO LOSE MOMENTUM AND THAT ANY DELAY IN GETTING STARTED WILL NOT BE AT OUR REQUEST. WE ALSO BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON THIS SUBJECT SOMETIME PRIOR TO THE SPRING ECOSOC BUT WOULD APPRECIATE ANY VIEW THE DEPT MIGHT HAVE. IN ANY EVENT, WE WILL HAVE TO PLAY THIS SOMEWHAT BY EAR, DEPENDING ON THE DRIFT OF THE FURTHER DISCUSSIONS IN THIS SESSION.

4. THE QUESTION OF THE SCHEDULED OF THE FIRST ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON OVERVIEW WAS ONLY TOUCHED ON IN YESTERDAY'S MEETING BUT HAS BEEN DISCUSSED IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE CORRIDORS. THE EC-9 HAS ARRIVED AT A POSITION THAT THE TIME BLOCKED OUT BY THE SECRETARIAT (ABOVE) IN PREMATURE BUT THAT THEY WOULD BE AGREEABLE TO THE WEEK OF FEB 13 OR THEREABOUTS. THE

SOVIETS ALSO BELIEVE THAT THE SUGGESTED TIMING IS PREMATURE. THE G-77 DO NOT YET SEEM TO HAVE ARRIVED AT A CLEAR POSITION. NOR DOES THERE SEEM TO BE ANY EVOLVING CONSENSUS ON HOW THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE SHOULD ORGANIZE ITSELF BOTH IN TERMS OF STRUCTURE AND AGENDA. THE UK AND FRG HAVE TOLD US THAT THE EC-9 WILL NOT REPEAT NOT AGREE TO ANY SUBSTRUCTURE THAT WOULD PRECLUDE ANY OR ALL EC-9 COUNTRIES FROM PARTICIPATING AS INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS AND THAT WOULD REQUIRE EC-9 PARTICIPATION THROUGH A SINGLE REPRESENTATIVE. IN OTHER WORDS, THEY WILL NOT ACCEPT A REPETITION OF THE CIEC REPRESENTATION FORMULA. FRG REP HAS SUGGESTED AN INFORMAL EC GET TOGETHER WITH THE US THIS WEEK.

LEONARD

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